

**Vincentiana**

Volume 48
Number 1 *Vol. 48, No. 1*

Article 4

1-2004

Presentation: Guillaume Pouget, C.M.

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Recommended Citation

(2004) "Presentation: Guillaume Pouget, C.M.," *Vincentiana*: Vol. 48 : No. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vincentiana/vol48/iss1/4>

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FEATURE:

Guillaume Pouget, C.M. (1847-1933)

Presentation

In 2004, *Vincentiana* has planned to dedicate the first and last of the five features which it normally publishes each year to the figures of lesser-known confreres in order to contribute, even a little, to a better knowledge of them. A feature will be dedicated to the most important event for us this year, the 40th General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission (Rome, 5-29 July 2004); another feature will highlight some apostolic experiences among the poorest which confreres carry out in different parts of the world, and still another, finally, to the “new missions” of the C.M.

This first issue, which we are offering you now, is specially dedicated to the memory of M. Pouget. In it you will find a brief biography, an interesting article on his theological and spiritual thought and a bibliography on this great French thinker. The initiative of highlighting here this Vincentian came from Fr. Erminio Antonello, C.M., the present Visitor of Turin, who, in May 2002, sent to the Editorial Board an article on Pouget, which he had written, suggesting that it be published in view of the 70th anniversary of Pouget’s death, which occurred in 1933. The Editorial Board accepted the idea, and it is being published now, although it had been planned for 2003. Our sincere thanks to him for this suggestion, for having given us all the necessary material, and above all, for the effort which he made to delve deeply into the life and work of this illustrious confrere. Thanks also to the Motherhouse for providing us with original photos of Pouget.

Paraphrasing J. Guitton in his book *Dialogues avec Monsieur Pouget*, Paris: Grasset (1954), we can say that preparing this feature “has been a holy obligation, that is to say, a joy” (p. 14).